

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By  
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It seems that the Crusade for Freedom is getting active in collecting funds for the operation of Radio Free Europe. This year, \$10,000,000 is the goal they say, I believe, and Mr. Gwilym Price, chairman of the board of the Westinghouse Corporation and also chairman of the board of the Crusade, has started on the road for a series of luncheon conferences with the bigwigs of American industry to try to get contributions from them to provide the money.

I am following his trip by means of clippings which listeners send in from along the way, and thus far I have coverage on the meetings from New York to as far west as Milwaukee. Last week, for example, Mr. Gwilym Price was in Detroit, Michigan, where the vice president of the Chrysler Corporation--the president of the Chrysler Corporation, I believe--was the luncheon host, and Mr. Price told the top figures of the Detroit automobile world about the glorious achievements of the Radio Free Europe operation. I'd like to say that along with Mr. Price on this trip is Mr. Jack Patterson, a paid fund raiser for the Crusade for Freedom. My understanding is that he provides Mr. Price with the material for the speeches, which all seem to be pretty much the same, and the state director of the Crusade in each case is to follow up and try to get corporate contributions, up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Some of the industrial leaders who have been exposed to this operation, or will be exposed to it in the future, may be listening to this particular broadcast. If so, there are several things I think you should know. In the first place, as of a month ago, I tried to get in contact with this same Mr. Gwilym Price to offer him complete access to my files on this story--not because there is anything I wanted to get out of Mr. Price because he is just serving this year as chairman of the Crusade--but because I have a respect for the gentleman and the tremendous corporation that he heads. And, as a responsible reporter, I thought the ethical thing to do was to offer to sit down with

Mr. Price for his own protection and give him a documented factual picture of just what he has become involved in, because I certainly would not want to become involved in it myself. I managed to reach Mr. Price through a close mutual friend, and he said that he was very interested and made an appointment to meet me in New York City on the week end between Christmas and New Year's. Unfortunately however, Mr. Price did not keep the engagement and I have never heard anything from him since.

For the benefit of those corporations which get the touch in this crusade drive, it seems worthy of their attention and the attention of their stockholders--because after all these contributions are coming out of money that belongs to the stockholder--some years ago, in order to screen organizations of this kind to separate the sheep from the goats and the legitimate from the illegitimate, the big money contributors themselves set up and have operated, ever since, a sort of screening, clearing house in New York City called the National Information Bureau. Certain basic standards were established for the protection of the corporations that are likely to be solicited--at least for those corporations that are members of this National Information Bureau, and every large corporation that I have any knowledge of does belong--and if a fund raising operation is not able to meet those standards, the National Information Bureau so reports to its members for their protection.

For your information, the National Information Bureau has made an inquiry into the Crusade for Freedom for which Mr. Gwilym Price of Westinghouse is soliciting contributions in the course of his cross-country trip, and I must report that the Crusade for Freedom is not on the approved list of the National Information Bureau as a result. The bureau reports that the Crusade for Freedom is not able to comply with its minimum acceptable standards, and therefore the Crusade for Freedom has been ruled off the list. Incidentally, this National Information Bureau is the only organization of its kind of which I have any knowledge, and thus it is the standard clearing house.

You may be interested in what some of these clippings have to report of what Mr. Gwilym Price is telling the people who attend these luncheons about the great achievements of Radio Free Europe and how effective it is. I have before me a clipping from the Milwaukee Sentinel telling of the affairs that took place there, and let me read verbatim. Mr. Price said that a survey of refugees from behind the iron curtain indicated that 93% of the people in the satellite countries are listening to

Radio Free Europe. Let me repeat that figure: 93% of the people in the satellite countries are listening to Radio Free Europe.

Now let me read from the official statement of an information sheet that Mr. Jack Patterson put out in the Crusade headquarters in New York on the date of last November 26, "Latest proof of Radio Free Europe's effectiveness, in addition to thousands of letters received from listeners from behind the curtain and in addition to the statements of thousands of refugees, there is a survey completed by an Austrian opinion research organization. The survey was based on depth in interviews of Hungarian refugees in Austria who were selected as representative of the Hungarian people as a whole in terms of residence, sex, education, and religion. The survey shows that 97% of the Hungarian people listen to Western broadcasts, that 93% listen to Radio Free Europe."

Now please note that that is the same figure that Mr. Price used, and in this case the statement specifically distinguishes between Western broadcasts as a whole and Radio Free Europe broadcasts. It's hard to suggest that 93% of the people of any country listen to any particular broadcast. It is preposterous because any reasonable individual knows that that cannot be true on the face of it. But never mind what seems reasonable. Let's see if this is possible. In the next paragraph of this same document, issued by the Crusade for Freedom itself and compiled by Mr. Jack Patterson, it gives statistics on the number of radio sets in the countries concerned, and Mr. Price can read this for himself if he would just take the time. It's on page 5, and wherever he is at the moment, he must have one of these along with him: "The number of radio sets in Eastern Europe capable of picking up Western broadcasts has increased substantially in recent years. Czechoslovakia has the largest number, 3,000,000 for a 12 and a half million population. In Hungary, population 8,000,000, there are 1,250,000 sets; Poland, population 27,000,000--3,000,000 sets; Rumania, population 16 and a half million, 600,000 sets; and in Bulgaria, population 7,000,000--280,000 sets." That's the official word from the Crusade for Freedom itself.

These figures work out to less than one radio to every 14 people in Czechoslovakia, less than one to every six people in Hungary, less than one to every 13 in Poland, less than one to 27 in Rumania, and less than one to 25 in Bulgaria. Now let me repeat to you the quotation from the Milwaukee Sentinel: "Mr. Price said that a survey of refugees from behind the iron curtain indicated that 93% of the people in the satellite countries listen to Radio Free Europe." (Remaining 30 seconds of broadcast not transcribed because of defective recording.)